



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **USAID Plastic Recycling Project: “Days of Recycling” Begin Today**

USAID Macedonia’s Plastic Recycling Project has just launched the “Days of Recycling” public awareness campaign for plastic recycling at the Ohrid riviera. Partners include the Municipality of Ohrid, Public Utility Company – Ohrid and the Municipality of Struga; the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning also supports the campaign. The goal is to raise citizens’ and tourists’ awareness of the negative environmental impact that improper treatment of plastic PET (polyethylene terephthalate) waste can have. This activity focuses on raising awareness that the recycling process begins at home when residents sort their waste for recycling.

“Conservation of the environment is a global problem, and we are faced with it in our country, too. The existence of a systematic method for primary selection of plastic waste is a very important step in the protection of our environment. That is why all sectors in society, including citizens, local government representatives, and non-governmental organizations need to join forces and seek solutions. With “For a Clean Ohrid Riviera,” this week’s Days of Recycling activities are the first step towards primary selection of plastic waste in Ohrid and Struga,” said Acting Director of USAID/Economic Growth Office, Meri Cuculoska.

The \$1.2 million USAID Plastic Recycling Project has been implemented through the local non-governmental organization MBRC TI NET - Macedonian Business Resource Center, Trade and Investment Network, in partnership with the municipalities in Macedonia, as well as public and private waste management companies. The project has initiated plastic waste collection programs and recycling clubs in primary schools, equipped ecological islands, and supported eight recycling companies with equipment purchases. As of June 2008, upon successfully finalizing the pilot phase, the project has expanded its activities into 20 new municipalities, in addition to the four pilot municipalities.

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia’s transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.